Exports of handicrafts

2361. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Export Promotion Council of Handicrafts has claimed that our handicrafts exports can cross $10 billion by 2010 provided Government, grants industrial status to this sector, sets up SEZs and grants certain other concessions to this sector;

(b) whether the Council has made a request to Government for such help for its healthy development, and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of Government to help this sector to boost their growth?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Export Promotion Council of Handicraft (EPCH) has reported that **a** Memorandum has been submitted to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry highlighting various issues concerning Exim Policy, Flexible Labour Laws; 'Special Economic Zone' for handicrafts and allied products; 100% deduction under section 80 HHC of Income Tax Act etc. The council has stated that if these issues are resolved, the export of handicrafts can cross $10 billion by 2010.

"(c) Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has been advised to submit detailed action pian on various issues for consideration of the competent authority.

Production of cotton and synthetic fabrics

2362. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of cotton and synthetic fabrics in the country annually;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange spent annually for importing chemicals etc. for producing synthetic fabrics; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to promote cotton fabrics in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The production of cotton, blended and 100% non-cotton fabrics in the country during 2001-02,2002-03 and 2003-04 is given below: